

STATE OF NEW MEXICO **Taxation and Revenue Department**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Albuquerque Man Pleads Guilty to Filing False New Mexico Personal Income <u>Tax Returns</u>

Marshal J. Johnson, a resident of Albuquerque pleaded guilty before First Judicial District Judge Stephen Pfeffer, February 4, 2008 to five state felony counts of False Statement and Fraud and to five felony counts of Computer Access with Intent to Defraud or Embezzle.

The guilty plea is the result of Johnson's January 25, 2007 indictment on ten felony counts of False Statement and Fraud and ten felony counts of Computer Access with Intent to Defraud or Embezzle.

The charges relate to Johnson filing at least ten 2003 false State of New Mexico Personal Income Tax Returns during 2004 in which he claimed state refunds totaling \$13,455.

There were ten false New Mexico Personal Income Tax Returns filed by Johnson; five returns contained Social Security Numbers of individuals from Texas who did not earn income in New Mexico and did not know Johnson. One of the false income tax returns filed by Johnson contained the Social Security Number of a man who has been deceased since 1997. Three individuals did not earn income in 2003 and did not authorize Johnson to file returns on their behalf. One additional individual was also unaware that Johnson had filed a New Mexico Personal Income Tax Return using his name.

Johnson faces up to sixteen and a half years incarceration and a \$50,000 fine. Sentencing has been scheduled for March 17. He will also be liable for making restitution of the \$13,455 in refunds that he fraudulently claimed.

The case was investigated by the Tax Fraud Investigations Division of the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department.